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The Syrian Air Force

1. The First Air Force Company at Mezze Airport, which is in charge of all maintenance and servicing of the Syrian Air Force, consists of 551 men and is commanded by Captain ANWAR TAMIR. In addition to this company there are 330 other officers, enlisted men, and civilian mechanics at Mezze.
2. Four Syrian officers are receiving pilot training in Iraq and five others are receiving similar training in Egypt.
3. Lieutenant Colonel Rif'at Khankan, chief of the Syrian Air Force, has gone to England, accompanied by two Syrian officers, Lieutenant Sa'id Samman and Lieutenant Zuhayr Wasfi, to buy planes for the Syrian Air Force. () Comment. ()

Khankan had gone to England to receive training instructions and information on the maintenance and use of British equipment which the Syrians already possessed. [REDACTED] Khankan hoped to secure some Spitfires at the same time.) 25X1A

The Syrian Navy

4. A temporary naval company, comprised of 75 soldiers from the air force at Mezze, has been organized to guard the Syrian coast until a regular naval battalion can be set up. The commanding officer of this company is 1st Lieutenant HANID YAHI.

ARTIS

5. On 10 October 60 tons of iron arrived at Bab Shakri (ammunition factory and motor pool for the Syrian Army) from Cyprus. This iron was brought as far as Beirut by boat. It will be used for tanks, armored cars and tractors.

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6. Major AZIZ 'ABD-al-KARIM, Commanding Officer of 1 Artillery Battalion, has been appointed Commanding Officer of Bab Shakri, vice Major Ramsi Utsi, who has been appointed Inspector General of all artillery battalions.

Battalion of Palestinian Refugees

7. On 8 October an order was sent by the Syrian Ministry of Defense to the commanding officers of all Palestinian refugee camps, stating that the Ministry was in the process of organizing a battalion to be composed entirely of Palestinian refugees. According to the order, Salah-al-Din Abassi, from Safad, Palestine, is to make a tour of all refugee camps in Homs, Hama, and Aleppo, to recruit men and to organize their transfer to this battalion. Commanding officers of the refugee camps were to do everything possible to help Abassi in this work. The order was signed by HISAM ABADIN, commanding officer for operations in Damascus, for Colonel HUSNI ZAIM, Chief of Staff.
8. Seventy-five Palestinians are receiving officers training at Qatanah. Final examinations are to begin on 25 October, and all trainees who pass these examinations will be sent, as 2nd Lieutenants, to the Palestine Arab Government.

Situation at the Syrian Army Camp at Qatanah

9. A break-down of the number of troops stationed at Qatanah on 10 October is as follows:

Deir-ez-Zor	1,600
Kurds	148
Assyrians	140
Alawites	179
Bedouins	141
North Africans	95
Ismailites	230
Hauraneens	170
Total	2,703

10. Thirteen German officers, all expert in weapons training, have been assigned to 4 Brigade at Qatanah, which is a training brigade commanded by Lieutenant Colonel ANWAR BANNUD, former commanding officer of 1 Brigade. Language, however, is a problem, as only a few of these German officers speak French, and the remainder speak only German.

11. 1 Brigade at Qatanah is composed of the following four battalions:

1 Battalion, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel TAWFIQ BASHUR
 2 Battalion, commanded by Major BASHIR HAWASLI
 3 Battalion, commanded by Major ZUHAYR SANJARDAR
 4 Battalion, commanded by Major ASSAD ISMA'IL

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